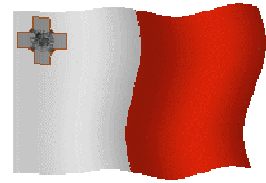


MARL



MALTA



Magazine by MARL

For Maltese and Gozitan
Radio Amateurs

Number 22

January 2008



Smoking is prohibited at the Centre

By the Editor

Friends,

I welcome you to another issue of this magazine for January 2008, which is issue 22 in this series. If we leave out the first page, this means that up to now we have published 245 information pages, which I have no doubt that you have found some of them useful.

I remind you that the more articles that you send the more will this magazine be interesting and represent your share with a wider measure of interests that are connected with our hobby.

In this issue you have photos of radio amateurs that took part in cooperation with organisations and radio amateurs from other countries in an emergency simulation exercise.

This exercise was useful because the participants had to pass messages to other stations under conditions which will probably result should a national emergency or disaster happen. They went to operate outside, with batteries, generators, simple antennas, and conditions that one would expect under the mentioned conditions.

One should remember that should a national disaster occur, earthquake, flooding, and similar occurrences, and these can happen everywhere in the world, electricity will probably be cut, television and radio stations will probably be cut or have reduced services, and even if cellular telephony continues to work it will not be long before it is overloaded by the vast number of calls such as happens when the results of a general elections are announced.

In such situations, it will not be only local communications that will be required, but also communications with foreign countries if help is required. Worldwide experience has shown that when all the services had stopped working, communications have always been provided by radio amateurs.

That is why these exercises are being organised worldwide with the collaboration by stations in different countries. Thus, radio amateurs will not only be well trained beforehand and will be ready and know what to do, but will also have all the required equipment to work under such difficult conditions.

Therefore, every radio amateur should be prepared and have the necessary equipment so that should, God forbid, a national disaster occur s/he will be capable to provide the required communications, both internally as well as with foreign countries under these conditions.

As we had previously told you, there is already a group of radio amateurs that are working hand in hand with the Civil Protection Department, and while presently their number is limited, in future it can, indeed should increase.

Ask yourselves. Are you ready to give your help should some national disaster occur?

Do you have the required portable radio apparatus, batteries, generators, electrical extension cables, antennas, water and food reserves, shelter such as a camp?

Do you have components, meter, soldering iron, solder, tape, tools and other equipment so that you can repair your radio equipment, antennas and all that you will be using should a fault develop?

Do you have antenna wire, coaxial cable, coaxial plugs and other reserve things so that if the antennas and coaxial cables are cut you can repair them?

Did you carefully study the circuits and your equipment to know it well, how it works, and where the components are so that should it develop a fault you can repair it as soon as possible? Are you capable of repairing it yourselves? Remember that if there is a national disaster you cannot search for a technician to repair it for you.

Think a little about these things.

Do not forget that the New Year has begun and the Assistant Financial Secretary is waiting for you to pay your membership so that he can close the books. I said the Assistant Financial Secretary because the Financial Secretary is recuperating at home. I am sure that the members and all radio amateurs in Malta join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

As usual, I thank all those who work and give their share in any way in the interests of our Society while I hope that you find the information in the magazine useful for you and if you have any article please leave it in my QSL box.

Lawrence 9H1AV / 9H9MHR

Emergency Simulation Activity Photos



Back: **9H1XE, 9H1AA, 9H1AK, 9H1M, 9H1PS**
Front: **9H5OU, 9H1VW, 9H1ES, 9H1RA, 9H1PI**



9H1PI, 9H1XE, 9H1PS, 9H5SH



9H1PI



9H1ES



9H1M



9H1VW, 9H1PI, 9H1M, 9H1AA



9H1AA, 9H1PI



9H1ES



In 9H1M's van sheltering from the rain



Back from left: **9H1XE, 9H1AK, 9H1M,**
(?) Front: **9H1ES, 9H1PI, 9H1VW (?)**





9H1AK



Photos from the Archives

The following are old photos which no doubt bring back memories to those who appear in them. Some of those who appear in them are no longer with us and it will therefore be good to remember them in our prayers.

You have the name of those who appear in them, but I don't know some of them and the dates. Therefore if someone knows who they are and when the photos were taken, I will be grateful if they give me the information. These photos are also on the MARL web page. I hope that these photos bring back previous memories, or as is said "**Oh sweet time how you have passed**".

**These photos were taken where MARL used to meet
at the H'Attard Parochial Centre**



From left: **Christopher Warren 9H1BW**, with microphone **Robert Galea 9H1E** ex **ZB1E (SK)** Back: **George Galea 9H1CX**, **Bertram Padovani 9H1BE (SK)**, **Parish Priest Dalmas**, **Walter Gatt 9H1DU**



From left: **Ray Suban 9H1EJ**, **Mansweto Grech 9H1GB**, **Karmenu Fenech 9H1AQ**, **Charles Borg 9H1FT**, **Fortunato Bonnici 9H1ES**, **Eddie Mangion SWL**.



From left: **George Galea 9H1CX**, **Christopher Warren 9H1BW**, **W????, W????**, **Karmenu Fenech 9H1AQ**, **Fortunato Bonnici 9H1ES**, **Carmel Bonello 9H1ED (SK)**, **John Bartolo 9H1ET**, (?)



Back from left: **Marco Vella 9H1GP**, **Ray Suban 9H1EJ**, **(?)**, **(?)**, **Mario Chetcuti**, **John Bartolo 9H1ET**, **Frank Micallef 9H1BM**, **(?)**
 Front: **Karmenu Fenech 9H1AQ**, **Carmel Bonello 9H1ED (SK)**, **Tony Vella 9H1FG**



From left: **Walter Gatt 9H1DU**, (?), (?), (?), **Carmel Bonello 9H1ED (SK)**, **Norman Polan**, **Joe Vella Brincat 9H1CG**, (?), **Karmenu Fenech 9H1AQ**

The two following photos are at the MARL Club H'Attard Industrial Estate



Front from left: **John Bartolo 9H1ET**, **Walter Gatt 9H1DU**, (?), (?),
 Middle: **Joseph Sammut 9H1HM**, **Lawrence Dalli 9H1HB (SK)**, (?), (?), **Philip Aquilina 9H1PA (ex-9H50)**,
 Back: (?), (?), **Martin Zammit 9H1IT**, (?), **Ray Suban 9H1EJ**, **9H5??**, (?), (?), **Christopher Warren 9H1BW**



Back from left: (?), (?), **9H1EJ Raymond Suban**, (?), **9H1E Joe Apap**, **9H1FG Tony Vella**, (?), **9H1GB Mansweto Grech**, (?), **9H1BG (SK) Paul Pisani**, **Charles Borg 9H1FT**, Front from left: (?), (?), (?), **Walter Gatt 9H1DU**, **Karmenu Fenech 9H1AQ**



Portable. From left: **George Bonello 9H1L**, behind (?), near him (?), behind (?), **Nathalie Padovani 9H1HY**, **Karmenu Fenech 9H1AQ**, **Fortunato Bonnici 9H1ES**



**Fortunato Bonnici 9H1ES, Karmenu Fenech 9H1AQ, George Bonello 9H1L, (?),
(?),(?), Nathalie Padovani 9H1HY, (?)**

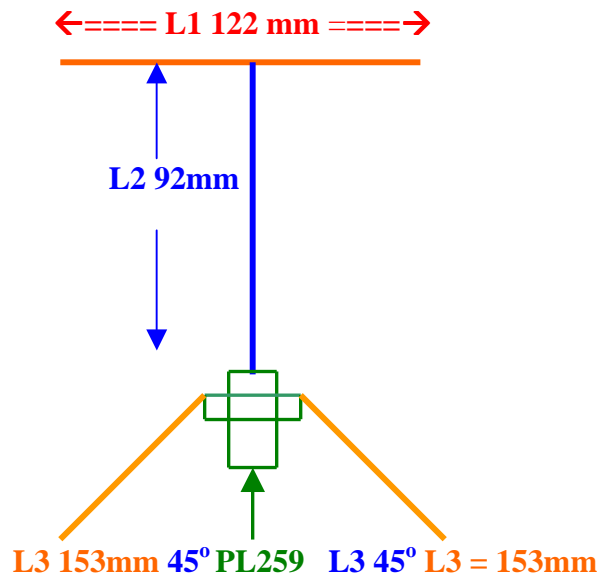
Lawrence 9H1AV / 9H9MHR

Interesting note from Frank 9H1BM

Guglielmo Marconi (1874 – 1937) came to Malta and was taken to the Mdina Cathedral and also to baroness Inguanetz. This is mentioned by Biagio Galea in his book “**L-Mdina ta’ Tfuliti**”.

T-Lambda Antenna for 430 MHz

By Karmenu 9H1AQ



To use this antenna on 430 MHz use a 3/16" copper tube for the T section marked as **L1** which is horizontal and the same for the vertical section marked as **L2**.

For the radials which are slanting downwards and are marked as **L3** you can use a stiff copper wire, which may be either enamelled or bare. When you use a tube instead of wire for the vertical part **L2**, the antenna bandwidth will be greater than if you use a wire.

The horizontal top part works as the top part of a centre fed Marconi T antenna which increases the capacity of the antenna but does not radiate. The currents in the antenna on both sides from the central feed point cancel and nearly totally eliminate the reception of horizontally polarized signals.

To tune the antenna put it in the radio room and try the SWR over the whole band. You can make small adjustments to the radials **L3** angle for best SWR.

Other Frequencies

One may be inclined to make this antenna both for the 50 MHz band and also for the 144 MHz band. If this is the case, you can use a copper wire, both for **L1** as well as **L2** and **L3**. This reduces the weight of the antenna with little effect on its operation.

These are the measurements

144 MHz	50 MHz
L1 = 0.360 m	L1 = 1.061 m
L2 = 0.274 m	L2 = 0.790 m
L3 = 0.459 m	L3 = 1.329 m

Editor's Notes

Note that the angle of the radials is nominally 45° to the vertical and 90° between them. Note also that with difference to a common vertical antenna which has at least 3 or 4 radials, this antenna has only two which are in the same direction as the top horizontal part.

This is made so specifically to have capacity between the horizontal part and the radials to allow the vertical part of the antenna to be shorter than normal when it is a quarter wave.

Although it will be heavier, whoever wants to can also make it with copper tubes, both for the 50 MHz band as well as for the 144 MHz band. However, you will have to use a larger diameter tube with thicker material because it will be bigger.

For lower frequencies to reduce the height of a vertical antenna you can use the same system but use aluminium tubes or wires if you have the means to tie them securely.


Lawrence 9H1AV / 9H9MHR

MARL Activities

Membership

The Committee wishes to bring to the notice of the members that membership payment can be made at the MARL Club every Tuesday between 6.00 and 8.00 in the evening and on Sunday between 10.00 in the morning and Noon.

Annual Get Together

The Committee is inviting the members to New Year's  drinks that will be held at the MARL Club on Sunday 13 January 2008 between 10.00 in the morning and Noon.

Annual General Meeting

The Committee also reminds the members that the Annual General Meeting is going to be held as usual during the last Sunday in February, that is 24 February 2008 from 10.00 in the morning onwards. If there is no quorum the meeting will start at 10.30 with the members present.

Seconded amendments and motions will have to be given to the Secretary not later than 10 days before the meeting. Do not forget that you have to have paid your membership before the meeting starts.

The Agenda

Reading and discussion of the minutes

Reading and discussion of the administrative report

Reading and discussion of the financial report

Other matters